

OPC BULLETIN



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UP AND COMING ...

Spring Festival

Welcome Spring on March 22 as the OPC celebrates Shun Bun — the Japanese holiday marking the time when the sun crosses the plane of the earth's equator, making night and day of equal length all over the earth.

This is Spring...the vernal equinox...and to celebrate it in Japanese fashion there will be the lovely presence of Japanese hostesses, a sake toast led by the Japan Sake Association, Suntory International's Akadma Cherry and Plum Wines, with traditional Japanese accompaniments, and in the background, the haunting sound of the Koto, the Samisen, the Shakuhachi....

—Sylvia Schur
Chairperson

Greene on Greene

Is she or isn't she?

Topic "A" for Cafe Society is discussion about the central character in Gael Greene's first novel, *Blue Skies, No Candy*, published by Wm. Morrow and Company. Is Kate Alexander, the successful screen writer of insatiable sexual appetite and staggering performance the real Gael Greene, author and, for the past nine years, *New York Magazine's* restaurant reviewer?

If you too have been puzzled and are looking for an answer, come and ask her yourself at the special Wednesday, March 23, "Shop Talk" luncheon.

—Chas. Schreiber

Jazz impressions

Vibraphonist Warren Chiasson will present, "Jazz Impressions of Kurt Weill," Tuesday, March 29, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. when the Overseas Jazz Club holds its monthly twilight jazz session. Admission is free to members and guests and seating is on a first-come basis.

Featured with Chiasson will be Chuck Wayne, on guitar; Ronnie Bedford, drums; and Earl May, bass. Recognized as a foremost innovator on the vibraphone, Chiasson says, "I have always been fond of Kurt Weill and interested in his compositions and their inherent possibilities for extended improvisation."

—Wilma Dobie

Arabs/Israelis

A sober expose of the Arab world's relentless drive to destroy the state of Israel, is the subject of veteran Middle-East correspondent, Alvin Rosenfeld's new book *The Plot to Destroy Israel: The Road to Armageddon*.

OPC members will have an opportunity to hear Alvin Rosenfeld, discuss his book and his subject on Wednesday, March 30th, at 5:30 P.M. The author is certain that there can be neither peace with Israel nor negotiation or recognition within the Arab master plan.

This is a vital subject with potential to involve the region and perhaps the world in a fifth round of war. Mr. Rosenfeld will be prepared to answer questions as to what is happening in the Arab world and how we can best combat this major threat to peace.

OPC Awards changed - formal reception but not a banquet

The OPC will present its annual awards to prize-winning newspeople at a formal reception in the Grand Ballroom of the Biltmore Hotel, Monday, April 18.

"To return the Club's most prestigious event of the year to its members, the Board changed from the traditional formal dinner to an elaborate cocktail reception," President Matt Bassity said.

"Rising hotel prices have priced formal dinners out of the range of more and more individual club members and turned them more and more over to corporate guests," Bassity explained, "so we switched to an event designed—and priced—to attract all the club members themselves."

The event, under the auspices of the Overseas Press Club Foundation, will cost members \$20, non-members \$30. Each member may bring one guest at \$20. Checks should be made out to the Overseas Press Club Foundation, and amounts are tax-deductible.

The ceremonies will begin in the Grand Ballroom with the presentation of awards to the winners. Ben Grauer will be master of ceremonies, and Victor Reisel will make the presentations. There will be no speeches.

After the presentation, winners, guests and members will adjourn for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in the adjoining Fountain Court.

Although traditional dinners have been black tie, this year's formal reception will be dress optional.

"Having altered a tradition to make the Club's high spot of the year a high spot for the Club's members, we look forward to a big turnout," Bassity said.

Invitations to resident members will be in the mail this week, and non-residents who will be in New York or can travel here for the occasion are urged to mail in their checks for reservations. Remember—make out checks to the Overseas Press Club Foundation.

—George Burns

Reader's Digest to publish 1977 Dateline; Giniger to be publisher; Strand, editor; will not be issued at Awards Reception

The annual OPC magazine, *Dateline 1977*, will be published this year under the editorial supervision of *Reader's Digest*. OPC'er and Digest editor-in-chief Ed Thompson has asked Roland Strand, Digest senior staff editor, to serve as issue editor, and Kenneth Stuart, Digest corporate art director, to serve as art director.

The issue will be on the subject of "The Press and the Law," and will include material from a variety of

sources, both within and without the OPC. Members with suggestions are invited to send them to Roland Strand, *Reader's Digest*, Pleasantville, N.Y. 10570.

To enable the issue to have the maximum impact, both in terms of editorial content and advertising, it will not be published simultaneously with the awards presentation this year but in May, when it will be mailed to all OPC members and a wide list of important readers throughout the world.

Ken Giniger, president of The K.S. Giniger Company, has agreed to serve as publisher for the issue and has asked for help from all OPC members in selling the advertising which makes the magazine possible and also provides a very important source of revenue for OPC. Each OPC'er resident in the United States will receive an advertising reservation form with this issue of the *Bulletin* in the hope that the member's own organization will consider becoming an advertiser. All members are urged by Giniger to provide any advertising leads they may have to him so that these may be followed up.

Foundation auction set for Thurs., May 5

A "moon dress" — patterned on a 100-times magnification of a slice of moon rock — has joined the inventory of items that will be auctioned off for the benefit of the Overseas Press Club Foundation May 5.

The auction, to finance scholarships and internships in journalism and to support freedom of the press activities, will take place in the auditorium of the Time-Life Building, Avenue of the Americas at 51st Street, from noon till 5 p.m. Items to be auctioned off will be on display Wednesday, May 4.

The list has already passed 100 items, but acquisitions chairman Mary Hemingway is still writing to news, civic, and political leaders for more — and is also asking OPC members for contributions.

"All contributions are tax-deductible," she reminded.

"We have trips, ballet lessons, theater tickets — a wide variety of prizes to auction off," Mrs. Hemingway said, asking members to:

1. Donate gifts themselves, and ask friends to make donations;
2. Come to the auction, and bring or send friends to bid.

—George Burns

EAT, DRINK WITH US AT OPC!

CALENDAR

Wednesday, Mar. 16, 5:30 p.m. — Talking Shop With... Robert W. Greene, *Newsday* editor and leader of the Investigative Reporters and Editors' inquiry into crime and corruption in Arizona. A first-hand report.

Thursday, Mar. 17, 5:30 p.m. — St. Patrick's Day Party.

Friday, Mar. 18, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. — Columbia Scholastic Press Association reception for high school editors. Sponsored by the Overseas Press Club Foundation.

Tuesday, Mar. 22, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. — Shun Bun Japanese Spring Festival. Specialties, tasting and travel notes. Admission \$6.

Wednesday, Mar. 23, 12 Noon, Cocktails; 12:30, Luncheon — Shoptalk Luncheon. Guest: Gael Greene, food critic of *New York Magazine* and author, *Blue Skies, No Candy*.

Wednesday, Mar. 23, 7:30 p.m. — Music Night. Guest soloist, Elizabeth Lauer, pianist.

Tuesday, Mar. 29, 5:30 — Twilight Jazz Concert. Warren Chiasson. "A Salute to Kurt Weill."

Wednesday, Mar. 30, 5:30 p.m. — Book Night. Guest: Alvin Rosenfeld, author of *The Plot to Destroy Israel*.

Wednesday, April 13, 5:30 p.m. — Talking Shop With... Richard Oliver, metropolitan editor, *New York Daily News*. Subject: "The Revolution in New York Journalism."

RESERVATIONS: Please call Mary Novick, 687-2430. Reservation cancellations must reach the OPC 24 hours before the event, otherwise members will be charged the announced fee.

Candidates for Board of Governors

The Nominating Committee has named the following candidates for the seven Active and one Associate spots on the Board of Governors to be filled in the May election. (Asterisk indicates incumbent).

ACTIVE

Merrill O'Brien*
John L. Scott*
Robert E. Sheridan*
Richard Dempewolf*
Albert E. Kaff
James Wessel
Ruth Biemiller

Arthur G. Milton
James Hanchett
Charles Rotkin
Leonard Saffir
Thomas Kraner
Lucy Jarvis
David Otto Tyson

ASSOCIATE

George Burns*
Gloria Zukerman
Grace Shaw
William Wilson

Under OPC by-laws (Art. XI, Sec. 3), additional nominations may be made by petition. A petition for each candidate must be signed by no fewer than 40 eligible members, active or associate, depending on the nominees' classification. Each petition must be delivered in person to the secretary or mailed and postmarked not later than eleven (11) days after the date of the Bulletin's issue which contains the Nominating Committee's list of candidates. Accordingly, this year's petition must be delivered or mailed by March 26, 1977.

Respectfully submitted,
—Rosalind Massow

Chairman, Nominating Committee

Committee Members

Marguerite Cartwright
Ralph Schultz
Jean Baer

Ed Cunningham
Pat McCurdy
Al Wall

Anita Berke
Meyer Lurie
Grace Naismith

Vodka at Amtorg: The Nyet's and the Da's

To the Editor:

At last night's (Feb. 28) Board meeting I challenged the propriety of the Overseas Press Club lending its good name and prestige to the commercial promotion of Soviet vodka and caviar at a party sponsored by an official agency of the Soviet Government at the World Trade Center in New York, at a time when American correspondents are being kicked out of Moscow and taken off trains while performing their duties.

My request to cancel or postpone this event was countered by the argument that because of "timing" it would be ill-advised, i.e., 1) It was too late to cancel the event. 2) The actions taken against the correspondents have taken place long ago and therefore are no longer pertinent.

I reject these arguments on three grounds — 1) My request to review the propriety of the event was voiced on the day it was announced in the Bulletin, which was February 15th. 2) The President who at the same time is Chairman of the Freedom of the Press Committee has full authority to act accordingly and does not require an action of the Board — thus delay to act. 3) Today's *New York Times* (March 1st), reports that Charles P. Wallace of United Press International while covering a fire was "held for 2½ hours until three officers pounced on him, twisted his arm and forcibly took his film." The *Times* further reports that both UPI and ABC Television protested to the Foreign Ministry that this action constituted a violation of the 1975 Helsinki Accord.

It was also suggested that my recommended action constitutes a form of "censorship" which of course is utter nonsense. If any OPC member has the irresistible temptation to enjoy Soviet vodka and caviar, by all means let him proceed — but not under the auspices of our club's endorsement.

To my mind this is simply a matter of principle. The OPC having been founded decades ago should adhere to the principles of its founders namely the Freedom of the Press and the protection of its members wherever they are, in the exercise of their responsibilities.

I am grateful to Mr. Russell Tornabene for his permission to add his name to my letter in support of my position.

—Henry Gellerman

To the Editor:

At the time Henry Gellerman suggested cancelling the vodka-tasting event, I sent the following telegram to Anatoly Dobrynin, Russian ambassador, and Jaromir Johanek, Czechoslovakian ambassador:

The Overseas Press Club of America strongly protests recent actions by the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, actions which patently violate the 1975 Helsinki Agreement and seek to stifle freedom of the press. The flimsy charge on which the expulsion from Moscow of George A. Krinsky of the Associated Press was based can only be interpreted as a blatant attempt to control freedom of the press. And the detention and search operations conducted in Czechoslovakia against Western correspondents Paul Hoffmann and Walter Kratzer are obvious violations of freedom of the press and are even more deplorable in view of the review this summer of the Helsinki Agreement.

In addition to the telegram of protest, I queried the Executive Committee and found no consensus on cancellation of the vodka-tasting event. The matter was brought to a vote at the Program Council and only one person voted for cancellation. I then discussed the matter with Keith Fuller, general manager of the Associated Press. Basically, his position was that communications must be kept open and the AP planned to send a replacement for Krinsky.

In reviewing the tapes of the Board of Governors meeting, I find no reference to cancellation of the vodka event as a form of "censorship."

But some of the points made were: ... That correspondents have been expelled from Moscow over the years and probably will be in the future. However, our own government still considers Detente a valuable policy even though President Carter forcefully protests violations of the Helsinki Agreement.

... The OPC always has provided a forum for anyone (as we did with Guyana, an openly Communist state) so long as there is free interplay of ideas and opinions.

... We now live in a different world, especially in light of the position of the Carter Administration. The OPC should not take a reactionary stand toward a minor social event that can neither be construed as a press conference or an occasion where we were feting the Soviet Union.

—Matt Bassity
President

Trib vets fete Baehr

Harry W. Baehr, who acknowledges he can write an editorial on any conceivable subject in time to catch the first edition and has been doing it for 40 years, first for the *New York Herald Tribune* and now for the *International Herald Tribune* published in Paris, was honored by some 200 friends, associates and former associates at an Overseas Press Club salute Friday evening, Feb. 25.

It was Harry Baehr night at the OPC but essentially it was a *Herald Tribune* reunion, an analeptic gathering of alumni, a testimonial not only to friendship for Harry but loyalty to a newspaper that ceased to exist after April 28, 1966, when a labor dispute finally silenced the presses Horace Greeley had cranked up over 100 years before.

Dwight Sargent, as master of ceremonies, recalled that Greeley had founded the paper in 1847 — the *Tribune* half of it. It became the *Herald Tribune* in 1924 with the purchase of the *Herald* by Mrs. Whitelaw Reid from Frank Munsey.

Only the Paris edition is left, owned jointly by Whitney Communications, the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*. Harry writes editorials for the *Trib*, from an office in the Times Building, over on W. 43rd St.

Sargent, now editorial page editor of the Boston *Herald American* — "the

WHO, WHAT, WHERE

By GRACE NAISMITH

NEW LOOK: James Beizor, senior editor of Iron Age was recently elected to the five-member Board of Trustees of Briarcliff Manor, the Westchester County (NY) village where he lives.

HONORS: Peter J. Brennan awarded a Jesse H. Neal Certificate of Merit by the American Business Press in the category, Best Contributed Article. It was a special report "Appropriate Industries for Developing Countries," that appeared in *Industrial World* March 1976.

TRAVELING: Elmer Lower, vice-president Corporate Affairs, ABC, has just returned from a 25-day trip through six European countries for ABC and to deliver 14 lectures under the auspices of the U.S. Information Agency. Titles of lectures: Broadcasting and the 1976 U.S. Presidential Election; The Anatomy of U.S. TV News; TV News Around the World; and Freedom of the Press and Responsibility of the Press Around the World... Arky Gonzalez back from Hong Kong where he covered the Pacific Area Travel Association annual meeting for Conferences & Exhibitions Magazine of which he is assoc. publisher.

RECUPERATING: Bob Sheridan, OPC governor, after an operation following a broken foot. At Roosevelt Hospital, grounded for two months.

PUBLISHING: Radio Liberty Research Bulletin has published an article by Aaron Einfrank on how Soviet authorities trump up charges against western correspondents like AP's, recently expelled George Krinsky... An article, "Would You Sell a Computer to Hitler?" by Hesh Wiener and Laurie Nadel appeared in February Computer Decisions, mention of which appeared in the Congressional Record.

NEW ADDRESS: Karsten Broennum: Burmeistergade 11, DK-1429 Copenhagen K. Denmark.

INVITED: OPC members to a preview a photo-documentary by Henry Ries, "Observations on Berlin." It will be shown March 31 at Goethe Institute, New York University, 42 Washington Mews, Time: 6 to 8. Henry and wife Ann Stringer spent last Sept. in Berlin. They were reporters there after World War II for The *New York Times*

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same title I held at the *Herald Tribune* —, read telegrams and messages from *Trib* people, ranging from John Hay Whitney, last owner, to Emma Bugbee, grand dame woman reporter, who sent a poem from Warwick, R.I., where she lives.

W.H. (Bill) Rollins, a former rewrite man, called on the telephone from Kentucky. Buddy Weiss, editor of the Paris edition, sent a message from Paris.

Among those present and rising to the occasion (speaking a few words) were L.L. Engelking, the *Trib's* last great city editor who ended his career on the paper writing editorials in league with Harry; Frank Kelley, former OPC president and *Trib* man, and Everett Walker, a former managing editor. Also, Ralph Jules Frantz, who was the last managing editor of the Paris edition of the *Chicago Tribune* before that paper was acquired by the Paris *Herald Tribune* in the autumn of 1934.

—Newton H. Fulbright

and U.P. The documentary of 100 photographs will be shown at Goethe Institute, New York University, April 1-19.

INTERVIEWED FOR RADIO: Wilma Dobie for Paul Anthony show on "Jazz Unlimited," which originates in Washington, D.C. Subject: Jazz and Willie, correspondent for Jazz Forum.

SPEAKER: Jack Hilton at the New Jersey Chapter of Public Relations Society, March 22, at a luncheon meeting at the Holiday Inn/Jetport, Elizabeth. Jack will speak on electronics and corporate communications. Guests invited: Call J. Kenneth Roden, (201) 355-1002.

NEW APPLICATIONS

Active Overseas

F. Jerry King, correspondent, bureau chief, ABC News Lebanon
SPONSORS: Elmer Lower, Don Coe
William Nicholson, Jr., bureau chief, associated Press, Argentina
SPONSORS: Enrique Rojas-Vela, Juan de Onis

Active Resident

Richard Ekstrakt, editor-in-chief, CES Publishing
SPONSORS: Matt Bassity, Wilma Dobie
Reg Laite, news director, WOR News
SPONSORS: John L. Scott, Matt Bassity
Lelei Lelaulu, senior editor, Intercom Publishers
SPONSORS: Laurie Bonnie Nadel, Ben Lucien Burman

Active Non-Resident

John T. Barr, photographer, Gamma Presse Images
SPONSORS: Bill Wilson, Charles J. Schreiber

Associate Resident

Bruce M. Barnes, director, special markets, Rapid American Corp.
SPONSORS: J.W. Gagen, Steve Ferber

Associate Non-Resident

John Lewis, director media relations, Amer. Farm Bureau, Washington, DC
SPONSORS: Russ Tornabene, Al Wall
Russ Bufkins, director, public relations, Boy Scouts of America
SPONSORS: Richard Fisher, Matt Bassity
Owen Wilkerson, national news exec., Boy Scouts of America
SPONSORS: Richard Fisher, Matt Bassity

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